

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 20-28, 31-44, 50, 64-68 and 89-90 are now pending. Claims 20, 31, 36-37, 40-41, 44, 50, 64 and 67-68 are currently amended, and claims 1-19, 29-30, 45-49, 51-63 and 69-88 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of any previously claimed subject matter. Claims 89-90 are new. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the cancelled claims in one or more continuation or divisional applications.

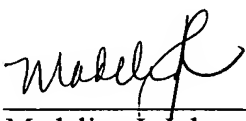
In the Office Action dated March 15, 2006, the Examiner restricted the prosecution of the application to one of three groups proposed by the Examiner:

- I. Claims 1-19, 46, 47, 51-63 and 76-88, drawn to a process for preparing 3'-O-amino acid ester nucleosides.
- II. Claims 20-45, 50 and 64-68, drawn to a process for preparing a furanose.
- III. Claims 48-49 and 69-75 drawn to a process for preparing a furanyl lactone.

Applicants elect Group II, drawn to a process for preparing a furanose. Claims 20-28, 31-44, 50, 64-68 and 89-90 are submitted as being included in the elected Group.

Examination of the elected claims is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency to Deposit Account 11-0980.

Respectfully submitted,

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